

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Entry into the refuge for hunting may not begin until 4:00am for designated hunt days. Hunters are strongly encouraged to scout marsh and wetland hunt areas during daylight hours prior to the hunting season.

Hunting or Shooting: Jump shooting is not encouraged as the hunt area is limited and one could easily infringe upon another hunter's setup. Hunting or shooting in the US 41 roadway or across it is prohibited by state law.

Boats: Air thrust boats, hovercraft, personal watercraft, and off-road vehicles are prohibited at all times. Marsh water levels are generally shallow, less than 18 inches. As the season progresses, water levels will get extremely shallow and dry up entirely. Hunters may need to push boats for long distances along marked waterways and elsewhere. Motorized watercraft is limited to outboard motors with a maximum of 25 HP and short shaft motors with 5-10 HP will generally operate better. Go-Devil engines are also allowed; however hunters should confine the use of motors to the marked trails, and use paddles, push poles or trolling motors as they cross over marsh grasses. Hunters may call the refuge office for the latest information on water levels.

Dogs: The use of dogs is encouraged to retrieve dead or wounded waterfowl. Dogs must remain under the control of their handlers at all times. A good dog will speedily retrieve your game and lessen disturbances to flying birds in the area.

Camping: Camping and overnight parking is prohibited.

Non-toxic Shot: Only steel shot or other approved non-toxic shot may be used. Use and possession of lead and any other toxic shot in any gauge is prohibited.

Hunting Guides: All guides are required to purchase a refuge Special Use Permit (SUP) and have it in their possession while in the field. Inquire at the Refuge Office for details.

Alcohol: The possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting is prohibited.

Guns: Ducks and coots may be taken with shotguns only. Possession of handguns and other long guns is prohibited unless specifically authorized under the provisions of subchapter C of 50 CFR 27.41.

Refuge Management Notes

The refuge will be evaluating the 2016-2017 waterfowl hunting season and potential changes to the hunt to improve hunt quality and hunter safety. We are interested in your comments which can be received at the refuge office physical or email addresses.

Refuge staff is participating in all aspects of environmental restoration of the former Southern Golden Gate Estates area now known as the Picayune Strand State Forest (PSSF) immediately north of US41. The removal of roads and filling of canals in PSSF will return a more natural water flow into the Ten Thousand Islands estuary and promote a healthier and more productive habitat for migratory birds and many other species. The refuge plans to conduct prescribed burns in the marshes to maintain existing marsh and retard the spread of undesirable vegetation. These activities should improve waterfowl habitat.

Hunting Recommendations

Decoys and calls should be used to bring birds into ideal shooting range. When setting out decoys, place the outer decoy 25-30 yards from the blind. This will help you judge when to shoot and result in fewer cripples and more birds in your bag.

Be a sportsman and respect the rights of other hunters afield. Before setting up, make sure you are not too close to others (allow a minimum of 150 yards between setups). This will allow birds more room to work and lessen the chances of flaring ducks working another hunter's decoys.

An important aspect of the hunter's experience is watching birds work over decoys. Sky busters flare ducks and make them wary of hunting areas. Letting the birds come in close and picking your shots will make for a more rewarding experience for all hunters.

Be sure of your shot. Many endangered and threatened wildlife species also use the refuge.

The area around Marsh Trail is closed to hunting to provide a quality experience for trail visitors during hunting season.

For further information or to provide comments, please contact:

Ten Thousand Islands NWR

Refuge Manager

12085 State Road 29 South

Immokalee, FL 34142

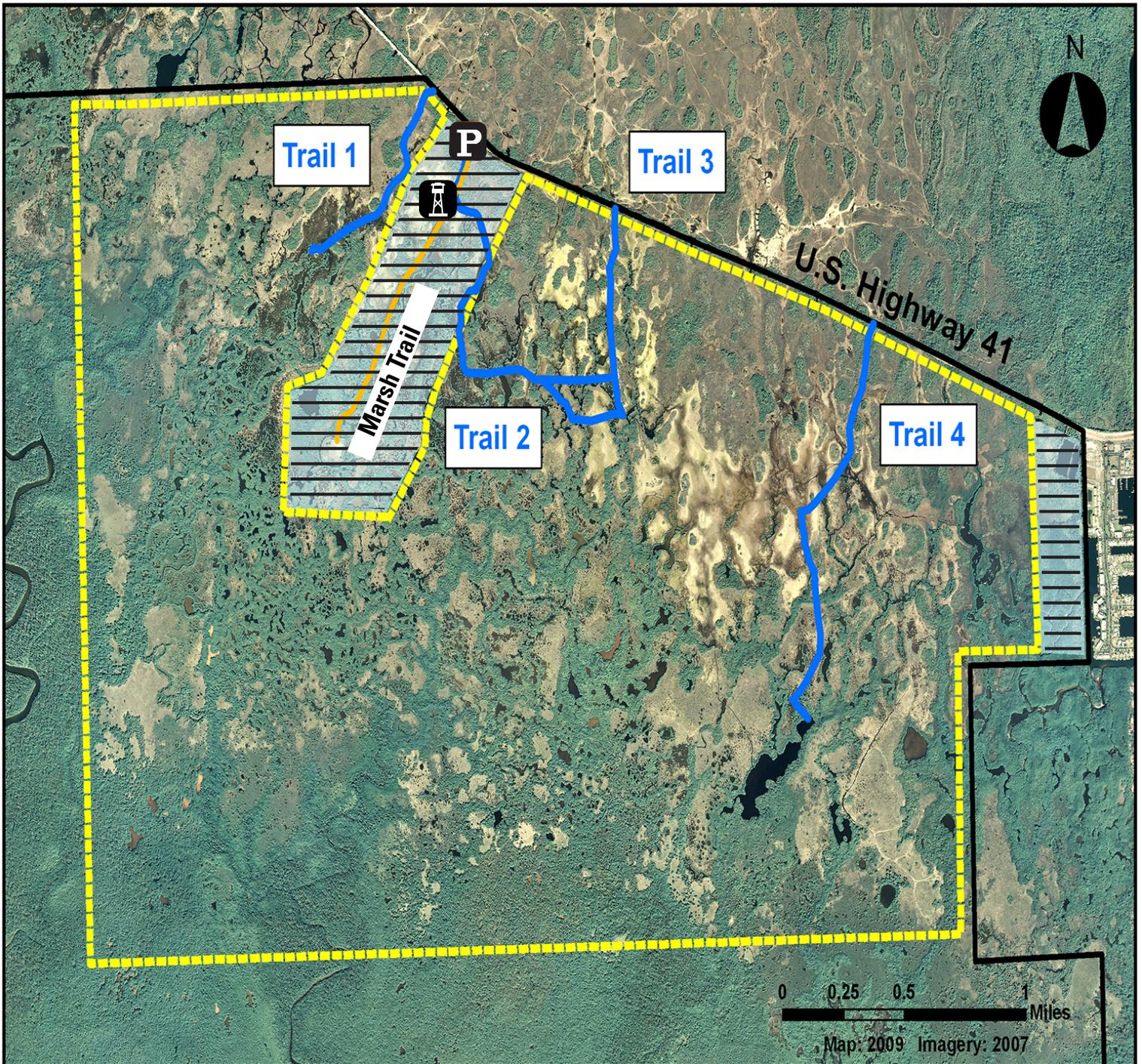
Phone: 239/657 8001

Email: floridapanther@fws.gov

Office Hours:

Monday-Friday, 8:00am - 4:00pm

Ten Thousand Islands National Wildlife Refuge



Parking Area	Hiking Trail	Duck and Coot Hunting Area	
Observation Tower	Canoe Trails	Area Closed to Hunting	Refuge Boundary